

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

In claim 6, line 1, change "25" to -2--.

In claim 7, line 1, change "16" to -1--.

In claim 8, line 1, change "17" to -1--.

In claim 11, line 1, change "110" to -1--.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. David D. Brush on April 5, 2005.

2. Claims 1-19 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of the record fail to teach or suggest singly and/or in combination an image encoding method comprising the following steps: the definition of a hierarchical meshing having at least two nested meshing levels formed by mesh units defined by peak (which may be pixels of said image to be encoded), the determining, for each of the mesh units, of a piece of error information between said image to be encoded and an interpolated image obtained from the peaks of the mesh units belonging to the meshing level of the mesh units considered, putting a stop to the refining of the mesh units having a piece of error information below a predetermined first threshold, the implementation of a specific

Art Unit: 2621

encoding (35) for the mesh units having a piece of error information above a second predetermined threshold, the continuation (34) of the refining of the mesh units having a piece of error information above said first predetermined threshold and below said second predetermined threshold as prescribed for in the claimed invention.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jose L. Couso whose telephone number is (571) 272-7388. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 6:30 to 3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bhavesh Mehta, can be reached on (571) 272-7453. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-8576.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jlc
April 5, 2005


JOSE L. COUSO
PRIMARY EXAMINER